

AmeriCorps

The Rural Alaska Village Environmental Network (RAVEN) Youth Development AmeriCorps program serves rural Alaskan communities by promoting environmental education, implementing energy conservation, encouraging recycling and waste reduction, and fostering community involvement in area-wide clean-up efforts. RAVEN AmeriCorps Members improve environmental conditions across rural Alaska. The 20 RAVEN AmeriCorps sites received technical assistance and training to improve their community's solid waste management systems. Sites report weekly activity logs and monthly reports demonstrating they have collected and recycled tons of materials during the service year. The RAVEN AmeriCorps members diverted 206,237 pounds of solid waste from landfills in the first three quarters of their program. Backhauling efforts have taken aluminum, batteries (household and lead-acid), paper, electronic waste and white goods to recycling facilities in Anchorage, Soldotna, Fairbanks or Seattle. This culminates into more than 22 tons backhauled and 14 tons of trash collected in clean-ups. As a result of their initial training and on-going solid waste technical assistance, RAVEN AmeriCorps members have been making improvements to solid waste systems in their villages.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Boys & Girls Club of South Central Alaska's mission is to meet the need for positive youth development opportunities in Alaska. Blue Two, the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team, served as role models and helped improve facilities for the members. The AmeriCorps NCCC team registered 1,688 kids for the club's summer programming and ran 45 physical activity, creative expression, and recreational activity programs. Additionally, the AmeriCorps NCCC team tutored 65 students in reading, supervised 2,103 middle school students and 5,979 elementary school students in an after-school program, and helped expand or improve 20 existing programs. The AmeriCorps NCCC team members also mentored 278 middle school students and 1,299 elementary students; taught life skills, safety awareness, and conflict resolution to adults; and conducted eight clean-up activities.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The Fairbanks Youth Advocates partnered with the Fairbanks North Star Borough and AmeriCorps VISTA to establish a permanent shelter for runaway and homeless youth in Fairbanks. As a second year VISTA member, Sarah Smith has been instrumental in raising over \$1 million to renovate a building for the shelter and enhance staffing for the organization. Sarah also helped with months of planning, policy creation, and volunteer program development. Since opening in a temporary location to provide emergency, overnight shelter in 2012, the Fairbanks Youth Advocates have served over 170 youth. The new, permanent location will open in February 2014.